

Chapter 1: Proposed Federal Action and Purpose and Need

1.1 Proposed Action

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has been asked to consider transferring title to three of its Provo River Project facilities to non-Federal ownership. The proposed action is as follows:

- To transfer title to the Provo Reservoir Canal (PRC), commonly known as Murdock Canal, including associated lands and appurtenant structures, from Reclamation to the Provo River Water Users Association (PRWUA). PRWUA may subsequently transfer a majority share of the PRC to a Joint Public Agency, yet to be established, comprised of representatives from Central Utah Water Conservancy District (CUWCD), Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake and Sandy (MWDSLS), Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District (JVWCD), and other public entities that may have capacity in the PRC and an interest in PRC management.
- To transfer title to the PRWUA office complex and 3.79 acres of land located in Pleasant Grove, Utah, from Reclamation to the PRWUA.
- To transfer title to the Salt Lake Aqueduct (SLA), including associated lands and appurtenant structures, from Reclamation to the MWDSLS.

Figure 1.1 on page 8 shows the locations of the three properties proposed for transfer in Utah and Salt Lake Counties, Utah.

As part of the proposed action, Reclamation would relinquish its existing withdrawals for the SLA over certain Federal lands within the boundaries of the Uinta and Wasatch-Cache National Forests, thus returning jurisdiction over those lands to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service. Prior to this relinquishment of withdrawn lands, the Federal government would grant easements to MWDSLS to allow for continuing use, operation, maintenance, repair, construction, improvement or replacement of the SLA.

In addition to the relinquishment of the withdrawals, Reclamation would transfer, to the USDA Forest Service, jurisdiction over that portion of fee title land that bisects the land referred to as the Highland Property, which is planned for exchange to the USDA Forest Service for the building of the Timpanogos Interagency Center (an interagency administrative facility and visitor's center). Prior to this transfer, as part of conveyance of the SLA to MWDSLS, Reclamation would grant to MWDSLS an easement for the use, operation, maintenance, repair, construction, improvement or replacement of the SLA.

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1.2 Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Federal Action

The purpose of the proposed action is to transfer title of lands and facilities which could be efficiently owned and managed by non-Federal entities. Reclamation's policy is to support the transfer of operation and maintenance to local entities where and when appropriate. Reclamation's title transfer process requires consideration of the following six major criteria which have been established to evaluate individual proposals:

1. The Federal Treasury, and thereby the taxpayer's financial interest, must be protected.
2. There must be compliance with all applicable State and Federal Laws.
3. Interstate compacts and agreements must be protected.
4. The Secretary of the Interior's Native American Trust responsibilities must be met.
5. Treaty obligations and international agreements must be fulfilled.
6. The public aspects of the project must be protected.

Reclamation's policy is to support title transfer where these six criteria can be met and where non-Federal entities who have been operating and maintaining the project desire to take title to project lands and facilities. Please refer to Appendix A for the analysis of this proposed title transfer against the six criteria.

1.3 Lead and Cooperating Agencies

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is the lead agency for this Environmental Assessment (EA). The Department of Interior, Central Utah Project Completion Act Office (CUPCA Office); the USDA Forest Service, Wasatch-Cache National Forest; the USDA Forest Service, Uinta National Forest; and the National Park Service, Timpanogos Cave National Monument (NPS), are cooperating agencies.

1.4 Decisions To Be Made

This Environmental Assessment will determine whether Reclamation should support the proposed title transfer. Reclamation does not have the authority to undertake title transfer. Specific authority for the title transfer is required from the Congress of the United States through enactment of legislation, which occurred in October 2004.

This EA will also determine whether Reclamation should relinquish its existing withdrawals for the SLA over certain Federal lands within the boundaries of the Uinta and Wasatch-Cache National Forests, thus returning jurisdiction over those lands to the USDA Forest Service, and whether easements should be granted to MWDSLs for the purpose of operating, maintaining, and eventually replacing all or part of the SLA.

In addition, this EA will determine whether to transfer, to the USDA Forest Service, jurisdiction over fee title land within the SLA corridor, which bisects the property identified as the Highland Property. The EA will determine whether a permanent easement should be granted to MWDSLs for the purpose of operation, maintaining, and eventually replacing all or part of the SLA within that parcel of land.

1.5 Background and History

1.5.1 Description of the Provo River Project

The three properties proposed for title transfer are part of the Provo River Project (PRP). The PRP provides a supplemental water supply for the irrigation of highly developed farmlands in Utah, Salt Lake, Wasatch, and Summit Counties, as well as an assured domestic water supply for Salt Lake City, Provo, Orem, Pleasant Grove, Lindon, American Fork, Lehi, and other cities in Utah and Salt Lake Counties. The principal structure of the project, Deer Creek Dam, is located in Provo Canyon on the Provo River east of the project lands. Other major structures are the powerplant at the dam, the 42-mile-long Salt Lake Aqueduct and Terminal Reservoirs, the Weber-Provo Diversion Dam and Canal, Duchesne Diversion Dam and Tunnel, Murdock Diversion Dam, Provo Reservoir Canal, Jordan Narrows Siphon and Pumping Plant, and the South Lateral. The Salt Lake Aqueduct and Terminal Reservoirs make up the Aqueduct Division of the PRP. All other features are included in the Deer Creek Division of the PRP (See Figure 1.2 on page 10).

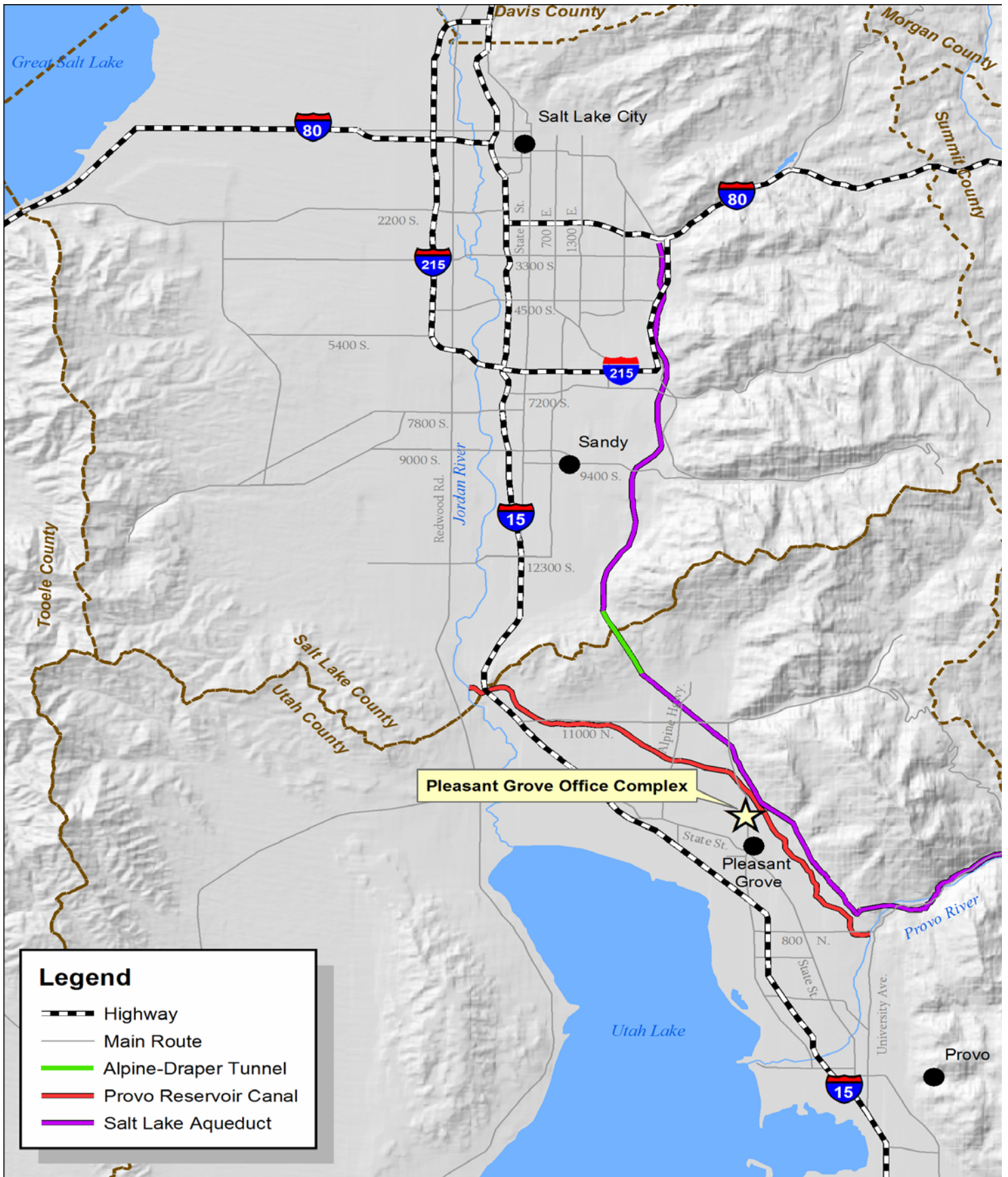
Construction of the PRP was initiated under the provisions of the National Industrial Recovery Act of June 16, 1933, and approved by the President on November 16, 1935, under the terms of subsection B of section 4 of the act of December 5, 1924 (43 Stat. 701). Construction of the SLA was approved by the President on October 24, 1938.

The Provo Reservoir Canal and the Salt Lake Aqueduct are currently operated by the water users who are seeking title to these facilities, pursuant to authority delegated to them in Contract Nos. Ilr-874, dated June 27, 1936, and Ilr-1074, dated November 16, 1938, respectively. This responsibility for operation and maintenance of these facilities includes all day-to-day, routine activities associated with the structures, including regulation of water volumes, cleaning and clearing of the facilities, routine maintenance, etc. Reclamation's current oversight of such activities is limited to periodic reviews of the condition of the facilities. Past reviews have raised no significant concerns over the water users' manner of operation and maintenance of these facilities.

1.5.2 Description of the Provo Reservoir Canal

The original Provo Reservoir Canal (PRC) was built in the early 1900s by the Provo Reservoir Company. The PRC was used to convey water from the Provo River, and water that had been stored in reservoirs on the Upper Provo. The term Provo Reservoir originates from these natural lakes in the High Uintas that had been modified for storage. There is no body of water known by the name of "Provo Reservoir."

Figure 1.1 Map of Facilities Proposed for Transfer



In about 1940, the United States purchased the PRC from the Provo Reservoir Company and enlarged the PRC as part of the PRP. The Provo Reservoir Company is now known as the Provo Reservoir Water Users Company, and still has contractual right to approximately 1/3 of the capacity of the PRC. When the PRC was enlarged by Reclamation, management responsibilities were assigned to PRWUA, a separate and distinct association from the Provo Reservoir Water User's Company.

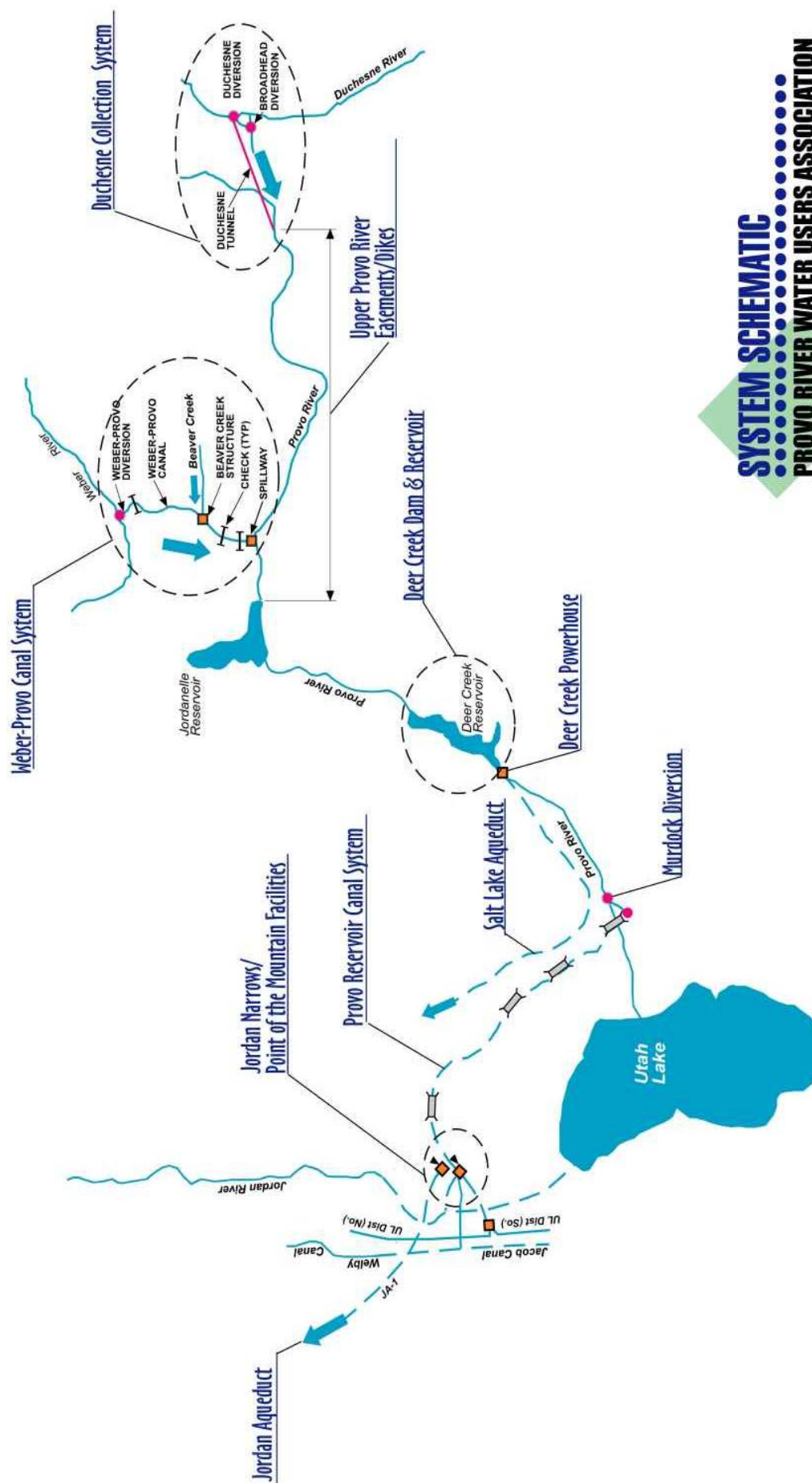
The PRC takes water from the Provo River at the Murdock Diversion Dam, about 7 miles downstream from Deer Creek Dam. The 21.5-mile-long canal serves irrigated acreage within the Deer Creek Division. The PRC runs northwest along the foothills of Northern Utah County to the Point of the Mountain Facility near the Utah County/Salt Lake County boundary. The Jordan Narrows Siphon and Pumping Plant furnish water from the PRC and Jordan River to lands on the west side of Utah Lake and the Jordan River. The South Lateral delivers water supplies from the Jordan Narrows pump to the area south of the pump and west of the Jordan River. The PRC delivers irrigation and municipal and industrial water throughout its entire length. Under terms of the 1936 contract between the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) and PRWUA that provided for the construction of the Deer Creek Division of the PRP, operation and maintenance responsibilities were transferred to the PRWUA. The 1936 contract also provided for the repayment of construction costs and certain operational and maintenance costs.

The design capacity at the head of the PRC is 550 cubic feet per second (cfs) and 350 cfs at the Point of the Mountain Facility, its terminus point. Water is delivered along the canal's entire length. The original design capacity is less at the end of the PRC than at the beginning of the PRC because of these deliveries. At the Point of the Mountain Facility, the PRC delivers water into pipelines that feed irrigation canals and/or the Jordan Valley Water Treatment Plant of the JVWCD and the MWDSLS. By 2007, the PRC will also deliver water to the Point of the Mountain Water Treatment Plant of the MWDSLS. Water delivered through the PRC includes PRP storage rights in Deer Creek Reservoir as well as direct flow and storage rights of the Provo Reservoir Water Users Company. Water is generally delivered in the PRC from April 15 to October 15, the normal irrigation season.

The PRC system consists of the following main features (See Figure 1.3):

- **Murdock Diversion.** This diversion structure, approximately 7 miles below Deer Creek Dam, near the mouth of Provo Canyon, allows PRWUA to divert flows from the Provo River into the PRC. The diversion consists of a 22-foot high concrete ogee weir across the river to back up flows, a bypass channel with radial gate control, and the canal intake with screens and radial control gates. The diversion is capable of diverting up to 550 cfs into the PRC. The diversion was completed in 1950.
- **Canal.** The canal traverses approximately 21.5 miles from the Murdock diversion at the mouth of Provo Canyon to the Jordan Narrows at the Utah

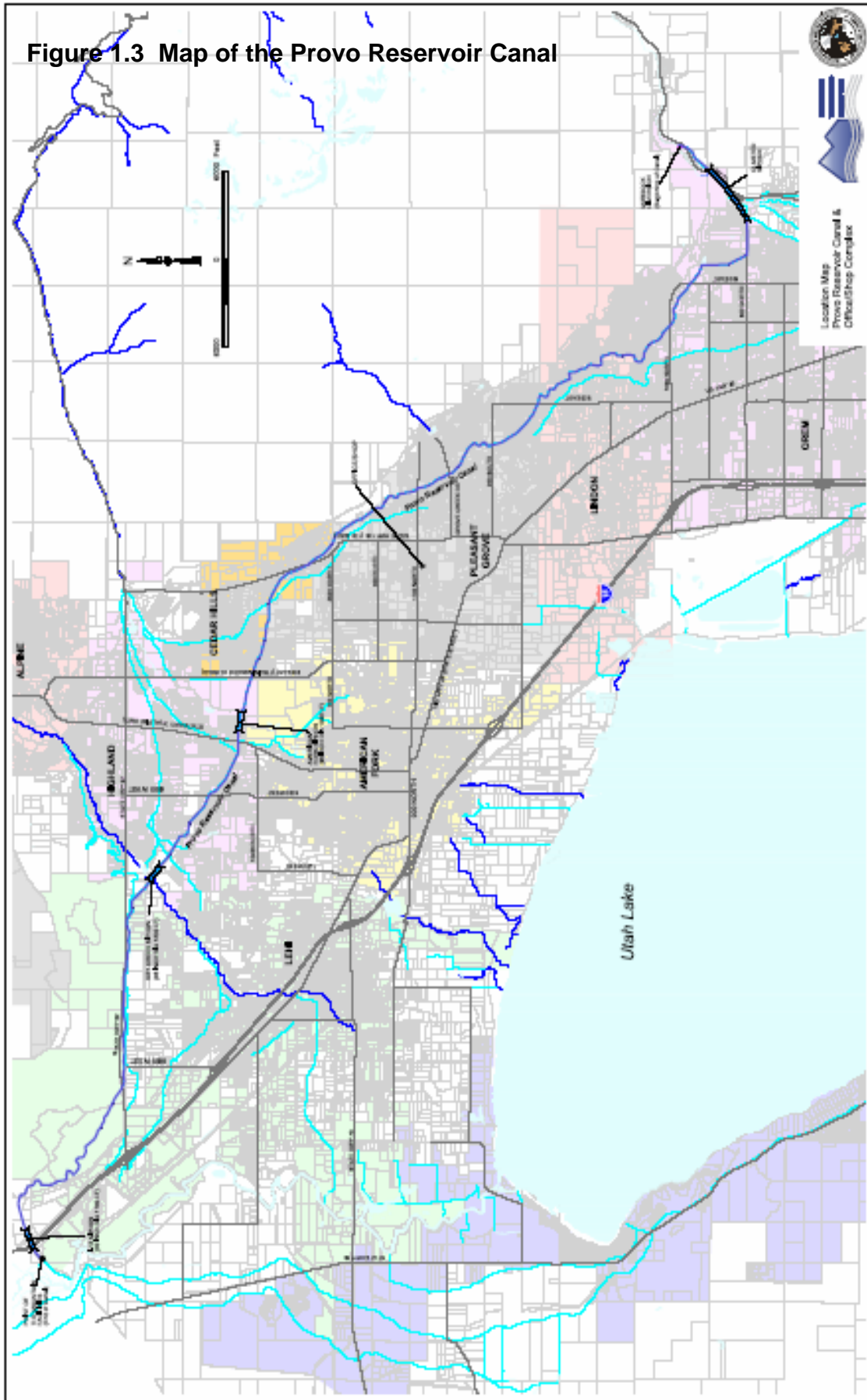
Figure 1.2 Schematic of the Provo River Project



SYSTEM SCHEMATIC
PROVO RIVER WATER USERS ASSOCIATION



Figure 1.3 Map of the Provo Reservoir Canal



County/ Salt Lake County line. The canal is mostly earth-lined, but some sections are concrete lined. The concrete-lined sections total approximately 21,000 feet. Typical bottom width is 16-18 feet with a typical water depth of 4 to 5 feet.

- **Olmsted Tunnel and Siphon.** This 5,200-foot long, 96-inch diameter tunnel and pipeline carries water from just below the Murdock Diversion at the mouth of Provo Canyon to the canal at 800 North in Orem.
- **American Fork Siphon.** This 1,285-foot long, 96-inch diameter siphon crosses under American Fork Creek near the City of American Fork.
- **Measuring Structures.** Flows are measured at 800 North in Orem, and at the American Fork parshall flume near the American Fork siphon, and at the Sylvan parshall flume near State Highway 92.
- **Dry Creek Siphon.** This 1,185-foot long, 96-inch diameter siphon crosses under Dry Creek near the City of Lehi.
- **I-15 Siphon.** This 1,200-foot, 90-inch diameter siphon crosses under I-15 near the Point of the Mountain.
- **Point of the Mountain Facilities.** These facilities include:
 - Intake screens,
 - Control gates,
 - A 69-inch diameter siphon that delivers water under the Jordan River channel to the Jacob and Welby Canals,
 - A 48-inch diameter penstock that drives the Jordan Narrows turbine/pump facility, which delivers water to the Utah Lake Distributing Company Canals. This facility was completed in 1950.
 - An emergency overflow to the Jordan River.

Operations of the PRC

Table 1.1 shows the average, minimum and maximum annual diversions (in acre-feet) into the PRC separated by month. The table also indicates the years in which the minimum and maximum diversions occurred. The period of record for this data is 1950 to 2001 and the data were obtained from the Provo River Commissioner's report. The canal generally operates during the irrigation season, which occurs each year from April to October.

Table 1.1

PROVO RESERVOIR CANAL		MINIMUM	MAXIMUM
	AVERAGE	2001	1954
JANUARY	0	0	0
FEBRUARY	0	0	0
MARCH	0	0	0
APRIL	2,058	0	7,061
MAY	13,392	1,947	30,339
JUNE	16,927	3,625	24,532
JULY	17,024	4,499	23,621
AUGUST	14,585	4,547	19,539
SEPTEMBER	10,837	2,677	16,869
OCTOBER	2,599	0	2,311
NOVEMBER	0	0	0
DECEMBER	0	0	0
TOTAL	77,422	17,295	124,272

All figures are in acre-feet. Data record 1950 to 2001.

1.5.3 Description of the Provo River Water Users Office Complex, Pleasant Grove, Utah

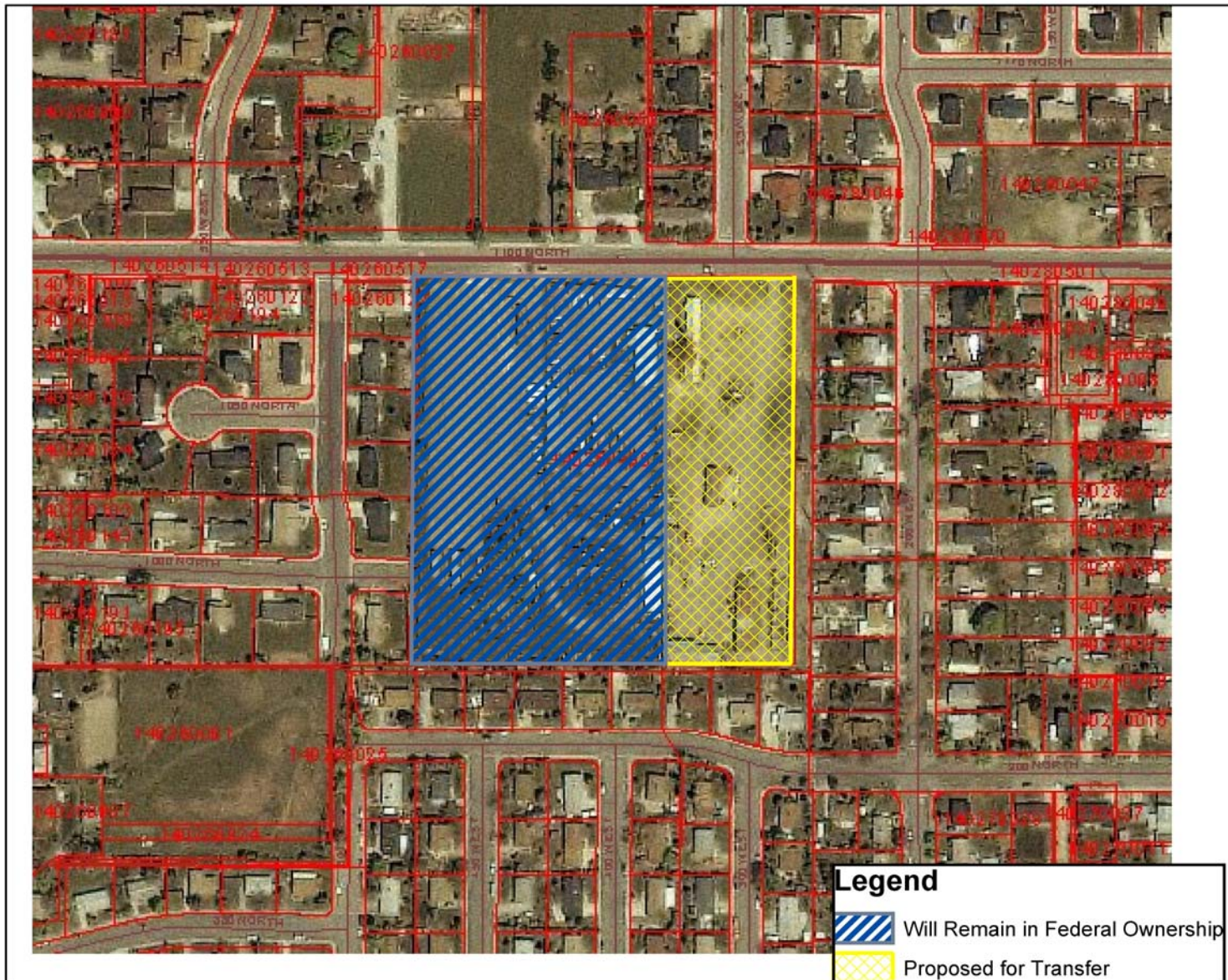
The Pleasant Grove Property proposed for title transfer is 3.79 acres of land at 285 West, 1100 North, Pleasant Grove, Utah. This property is owned by the Federal Government, under Reclamation jurisdiction, and has been used by PRWUA since 1956 for the purposes of construction, machinery storage, ongoing maintenance, and completion of Provo River projects. In 2003, PRWUA completed construction of a new office building on the site, at its expense. The Federal Government owns, and will continue to own, an adjacent 6-acre parcel that is used by Reclamation. (See Figure 1.4)

1.5.4 Description of the Salt Lake Aqueduct

The principal feature of the Aqueduct Division of the PRP is the Salt Lake Aqueduct (SLA), a 69-inch-diameter concrete pipeline 41.7 miles long, with a capacity of 175 cfs. Construction of the SLA began in 1939 and ended in 1951. Through this pipeline flows a large portion of the domestic water supply for much of Salt Lake City and Sandy City. Six tunnels are a part of the aqueduct, 4 small tunnels, and two larger tunnels: the concrete-lined, 78-inch-diameter Alpine-Draper Tunnel which is 15,037 feet long; and the Olmstead Tunnel, identical in cross section with the Alpine-Draper Tunnel, but 3,614

feet long. The two concrete terminal reservoirs, with a combined capacity of 122.8 acre-feet, complete the system. (See Figure 1.5)

FIGURE 1.4 AERIAL PHOTO OF THE PLEASANT GROVE PROPERTY



Under terms of the 1938 contract between the DOI and MWDSLs that provided for the construction of the Aqueduct Division of the PRP, responsibility for operation and maintenance of the SLA was transferred to the MWDSLs. The 1938 contract also provided for the repayment of construction costs and certain operational and maintenance costs.

The Features of the SLA are:

- **SLA Intake Structure.** Located near the base of Deer Creek Dam the intake structure diverts water from the Provo River into the SLA.
- **The Olmstead Tunnel.** Near the mouth of Provo Canyon, the SLA passes through the concrete-lined Olmstead Tunnel, constructed between 1938 and 1941. It is 3,614 feet long and approximately 6.5 feet high.
- **The Alpine-Draper Tunnel.** Located approximately 20 miles northwest of Provo, Utah, this concrete-lined feature was constructed from 1938 to 1941. It allows the aqueduct to pass through Traverse Mountain, located east of Point of the Mountain. The tunnel is 15,307 feet long and is approximately 6.5 feet high.
- **The Terminal Reservoirs.** Today this facility consists of two below ground storage units with a total capacity of 122.8 acre-feet. The reservoirs were built in the late 1940s. In the past several years, the soil cover has been removed for resealing, but the reservoirs remain in the same location.

Operations of the SLA

Table 1.2 shows the average, minimum and maximum annual diversions (in acre-feet) into the Salt Lake Aqueduct, separated by month. The table also indicates the years in which the minimum and maximum diversions occurred. The period of record for this data is 1951 to 2001 and the data were obtained from the Provo River Commissioner's report. The aqueduct operates all year. The aqueduct is periodically taken out of service for inspection and maintenance.

1.6 Related and Ongoing Actions

This section describes laws and projects that may affect the proposed action. Where applicable, these laws and projects are factored into the analysis of potential impacts under both alternatives, particularly in the cumulative impacts analysis.

1.6.1 Regulatory, Legislative, or Policy Requirements

This section describes laws and policies with which Reclamation must comply. Table 1.3 at the end of this section summarizes permits and consultation requirements that pertain to the proposed action.

1.6.1.1 Title Transfer Framework

Existing law does not provide authority for Reclamation to implement the proposed action. Therefore, Congressional action is required; the authorizing legislation was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate in October 2004.

Table 1.2

SALT LAKE AQUEDUCT		MINIMUM	MAXIMUM
	AVERAGE	1965	1996
JANUARY	1,366	501	3,563
FEBRUARY	1,037	605	1,860
MARCH	1,125	694	2,533
APRIL	1,226	860	1,635
MAY	1,900	717	2,885
JUNE	3,001	638	5,323
JULY	5,065	1,057	7,344
AUGUST	5,651	1,071	9,619
SEPTEMBER	4,138	788	7,514
OCTOBER	2,776	818	6,079
NOVEMBER	1,421	844	3,266
DECEMBER	3,939	493	2,814
TOTAL	32,647	9,086	54,435

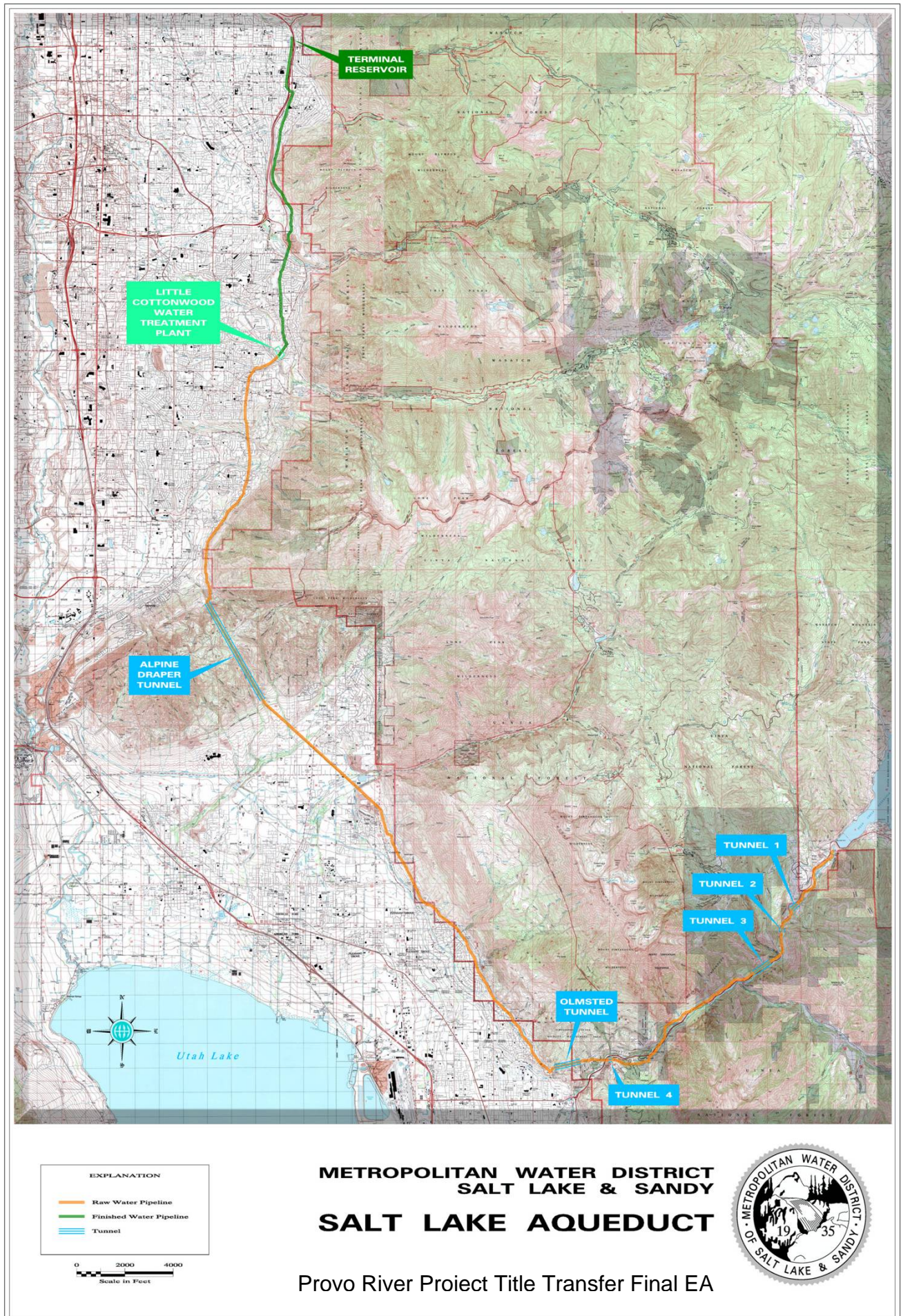
All figures are in acre-feet. Data record is 1950 to 2001.

Reclamation policy requires that title transfer be carried out in an open and public manner, and that the proposed transfer be evaluated against six broad public interest criteria before a recommendation is made to Congress. These criteria include:

1. The Federal Treasury, and thereby the taxpayer's financial interest, must be protected.
2. There must be compliance with all applicable State and Federal Laws.
3. Interstate compacts and agreements must be protected.
4. The Secretary of the Interior's Native American Trust responsibilities must be met.
5. Treaty obligations and international agreements must be fulfilled.
6. The public aspects of the project must be protected.

Reclamation's policy is to support title transfer where these six criteria can be met and where the non-Federal entities who have been operating and maintaining the project desire to take title to project lands and facilities. An analysis of the proposed action relative to these criteria is provided in Appendix A.

Figure 1.5 Map of the Salt Lake Aqueduct



1.6.1.2 Provo River Project Transfer Act H.R. 3391, S. 1876

A bill entitled the Provo River Project Transfer Act (PRPTA) was introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives on October 29, 2003. As passed on October 4, 2004, H.R. 3391 directs the Secretary of Interior to convey certain lands and facilities of the Provo River Project. H.R. 3391 specifies that transfer comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and all other environmental and cultural resource laws. It also specifies that the PRWUA and MWDSLs shall pay to the Department of Interior (DOI) the net present value of their remaining debt obligations, including miscellaneous future revenue streams of the properties. A companion bill (S. 1876) was introduced in the Senate on November 18, 2003, and passed by the Senate on October 10, 2004.

1.6.1.2.1 Contract No. 04-WC-40-8950

Contract number 04-WC-40-8950 is an agreement between the United States, PRWUA, and MWDSLs, to transfer certain lands and facilities of the PRP. This agreement is being drafted by the listed parties, but has not yet been completed or signed. This agreement establishes the terms of the proposed transfer, including the process of the transfers, payment obligations, and environmental compliance.

1.6.1.2.2 PRC, SLA, Jordan Aqueduct System Operating Agreement

The United States, PRWUA, MWDSLs, CUWCD, and JWCD are preparing an agreement entitled "Agreement Regarding the Coordinated Operations of the PRC, SLA, and Jordan Aqueduct System" (the Operating Agreement). The Operating Agreement establishes procedures to ensure that all facilities can be operated without affecting the others.

1.6.1.3 Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1532 et seq)

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 provides for the protection of ecosystems upon which threatened and endangered species of fish, wildlife, and plants depend.

The ESA:

- authorizes the determination and listing of species as endangered and threatened;
- prohibits unauthorized taking, possession, sale, and transport of endangered species;
- provides authority to acquire land for the conservation of listed species, using land and water conservation funds;
- authorizes establishment of cooperative agreements and grants-in-aid to states that establish and maintain active and adequate programs for endangered and threatened wildlife and plants; and
- authorizes the assessment of civil and criminal penalties for violating the ESA or regulations.

All persons, organizations, and agencies are subject to certain requirements of the ESA. Section 7 requires Federal agencies to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding major actions that may affect threatened and endangered Species or their habitat, while non-Federal entities are not required to conduct this consultation. Section 9 of the ESA specifically prohibits the taking of any endangered species of fish or wildlife. The term "take" is defined as "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct." All parties are subject to Section 9. The ESA implications for this project are discussed further in Section 3.5.

1.6.1.4 National Historic Preservation Act

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800, require that Federal agencies take into account the effects of their actions on significant cultural resources. The regulations include steps to identify, evaluate, and determine the effects to cultural resources. Through consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and interested Indian tribes and public, the goal is to seek ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects on significant cultural resources. Transfer of historic properties from Federal to non-Federal ownership is automatically considered an adverse effect and would require mitigation. The SLA and PRC are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. This is discussed further in Section 3.7.

1.6.1.5 Timpanogos Interagency Land Exchange Act (P.L. 107-329)

On December 6, 2002, Congress passed the Timpanogos Interagency Land Exchange Act (TILEA), P.L. 107-329. This Act authorizes the acquisition of land and construction of an interagency administrative and visitor facility by the NPS and the USDA Forest Service at the entrance to American Fork Canyon. The proposed exchange is scheduled to be conducted with Utah Limited Liability Company who is willing to trade property in Highland City, Utah for up to six individual parcels of National Forest Land. The property proposed to be acquired would be used for an administrative and visitor facility. It is bisected by a strip of land owned in fee title by the United States and administered under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Reclamation for the SLA. This property, known as the Highland Property, consists of 37.42 acres located at approximately 4400 West 11000 North (SR-92), Highland, Utah in T. 4S., R. 2E., section 31, NW ¼. The USDA Forest Service, Pleasant Grove Office, has prepared a draft EA that discloses the effects of the proposed land exchange. It can be viewed at www.fs.fed.us/r4/uinta.

1.6.1.6 Applicable Permit and Consultation Requirements

Coordination with other government agencies is required by certain environmental and cultural laws, and was deemed necessary to completely analyze the impacts of the proposed action. Consultation requirements are described in Table 1.3.

No Federal, state, or local licenses or permits would be required for the proposed action.

Table 1.3 Permits and Consultation Requirements for the Proposed Action	
Agency/Department	Purpose
Federal Agencies	
USDA Forest Service	Receive jurisdiction over portions of transferred land
Bureau of Land Management	Revocation of withdrawn lands (when requested by Reclamation to do so)
US Fish and Wildlife Service	Compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	Compliance with Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act, 16 USC 470
Native American Tribes	
Northern Ute Tribe, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, and Northwest Band of the Shoshone	Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 USC 470; Indian Trust Asset consultation
State Agencies	
Utah State Historic Preservation Office	Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 USC 470

1.6.2 Related Programs, Projects, or Activities

1.6.2.1 Provo Reservoir Canal Enclosure

Enclosure of the PRC has previously been approved by Reclamation and can proceed with or without the proposed action. The entire length of the PRC will be enclosed. The canal will be replaced with either a pipe or box culvert. The enclosed canal will be covered with a minimum of 1.5 feet of earth, and the surface will be re-contoured and re-vegetated. Reclamation prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) examining the effects of enclosure. No significant impacts were identified, and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was issued on April 30, 2003. Additional information regarding potential designs, construction methods, and potential effects can be found in the Provo Reservoir Canal Enclosure EA (see Section 1.7.1).

1.6.2.2 Utah Lake Basin Drainage Water Delivery System

The Utah Lake Drainage Basin Water Delivery System (ULS) is the final component of the Bonneville Unit of the Central Utah Project. Three joint lead agencies, CUWCD, DOI, and the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission (URMCC) have prepared an EIS to analyze the effects of the proposed project. The draft EIS was published in March 2004 for public review and comment; the deadline for public comments was June 11, 2004. The final EIS was published in October 2004.

1.6.2.3 Water Management Improvement Program- CUPCA Section 207

This program, administered by the CUWCD, provides Federal funding for water conservation projects. Federal money is provided on a cost share basis to public and private individuals that demonstrate need and appropriate planning on water conservation projects. Applications are reviewed by a prioritization committee and ranked to determine which projects are funded. Projects that provide a benefit to the environment, particularly threatened or endangered species, instream flows, or other environmental benefits receive credit in the ranking procedure. PRWUA has applied for CUPCA Section 207 funding to implement the PRC enclosure project. A Section 207 decision has not been made, however. The application may be subject to changes. Its potential effects are not considered in this analysis, and separate analysis for NEPA compliance will be required. If Section 207 funds were used, the PRWUA would make the saved water available to CUWCD who in turn would make the water available to the CUPCA Office for June sucker recovery needs.

1.6.2.4 June Sucker Recovery Implementation Program

The June Sucker Recovery Implementation Program (JSRIP) was established in 2002. It is a multi-agency program with efforts to recover June sucker so that it no longer requires protection under the ESA, while allowing continued operation of existing water

facilities and future development of water resources for human use. This program is discussed further in Section 3.5. Signatories in the JSRIP include Reclamation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, CUPCA Office, URMCC, Utah Department of Natural Resources, PRWUA, CUWCD, PRWUC, and a representative for the environmental interests. Provo City, Utah Waters, Trout Unlimited, the Office of Senator Bennett, Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, Utah State Parks, and the Provo River Commissioner occasionally participate, but are not formal signatories.

1.6.2.5 NPS/USFS Proposed Timpanogos Interagency Center

As noted in Section 1.6.1.5, TILEA authorized an exchange of land between the USDA Forest Service and Utah Limited Liability Company. The proposed exchange would facilitate building a shared interagency facility for the USDA Forest Service, Uinta National Forest Pleasant Grove Ranger District, and National Park Service Timpanogos Cave National Monument. The exchange would provide for development of a new facility, allow sharing of administrative resources, build and strengthen partnerships between the two agencies and others, and enable both the USDA Forest Service and the NPS to provide better customer and visitor service. A draft EA that discloses the effects of the proposed land exchange has been prepared by the USDA Forest Service, Pleasant Grove Office. It can be viewed at www.fs.fed.us/r4/uinta.

1.6.2.6 Provo Reservoir Canal Corridor Trail

In recent years, local municipalities and private organizations have requested use of the PRC corridor for recreational purposes. Meetings among Reclamation, PRWUA and local governments have been held over the last 7 years to discuss the feasibility of a trail along the PRC. Issues related to public safety, liability, and water quality would need to be resolved before recreational access would be approved by Reclamation and PRWUA. If title transfer were to occur, Reclamation would no longer be involved in the approval process.

1.6.2.7 Alpine Aqueduct Construction Activities

CUWCD recently constructed a 36-inch diameter pipeline from the Alpine Aqueduct Reach 3 to near 4800 West, Highland. In relation with this project, CUWCD proposes to construct a new 48-inch diameter pipeline approximately 3500 feet east of 4800 West, Highland to connect to the original designed turnout. The pipeline would parallel the PRC and Alpine/Jordan Aqueduct. This pipeline will be used to convey the original design capacity of water to the North Branch of the Alpine Aqueduct. If title transfer were to occur, all crossing agreements pertaining to the PRC would need to be negotiated with the PRWUA.

1.6.2.8 Lehi City/ UDOT widening of SR-92 from I-15 to SR-74

Lehi City, in cooperation with the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), is currently examining the possibility of widening SR-92 from I-15 to SR-74, from a two-

lane highway to a four-lane highway with a depressed median adequate shoulders and side slopes. The Jordan Aqueduct, Alpine Aqueduct, and the PRC traverse through the project corridor.

1.7 Documents Incorporated by Reference

1.7.1 Provo Reservoir Canal Enclosure Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

As stated in Section 1.6.2.1, this EA examined the effects of enclosing the PRC. No significant impacts were found and a FONSI was signed by Reclamation on April 30, 2003. The PRC Enclosure EA is incorporated by reference in this EA. The PRC Enclosure EA and FONSI can be found at <http://www.prwua.org/PRCEA.htm>. Copies are also available upon request by contacting Beverley Heffernan at (801) 379-1161 or by email, bheffernan@uc.usbr.gov.

1.8 Purpose and Contents of this Environmental Assessment

The purpose of this EA is to identify and consider the effects of transferring the three properties to non-Federal ownership. As required by Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. 1501.4), if a potentially significant impact is identified, an EIS will be prepared. If no significant impacts are identified, Reclamation will issue a FONSI.

This document consists of the following chapters:

- 1) Proposed Federal Action and Purpose and Need
- 2) Description of Alternatives, Including the Proposed Action
- 3) Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences
- 4) Consultation and Coordination
- 5) List of Preparers

References

Appendix A, Evaluation of Title Transfer Criteria

Appendix B, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Response for Section 7 Informal Consultation

Appendix C, Cultural Resource Consultation